

POLITICS

Politics never struck me as something I would want to explore and pursue at degree level. These men that frequented my dad's television time dressed in suits and arguing incessantly were of no interest to me. However, the day I convinced my year 5 teacher to let our class debate morality of capital punishment and she went on to show me videos of Prime Ministers Question Time, I forged the link between these alien men who seemed so irate, and to how the decisions regarding the issues I care about get made. This therefore, opened my eyes to politics.

The courses I have followed in history throughout my GCSE and A level years have been the most inspiring aspect of my studies. In particular I found the study of the Racial Issue in America fascinating as I am very interested in different ideas of equality, such as Locke's Three Natural Rights, and how they affect people socially, politically and economically. Also, through studying French A level I have been able to study the evolution of gender equality and traditional ideas of marriage, topics which resonate for me personally since developing an interest in the progression towards marriage equality in America and in the UK. Maths has always been a solid subject for me hence my decision to take it as an A level, however as the current economic crisis surfaced I found myself struggling to decipher the news channels whilst trying to understand something that would inevitably affect my day to day life. This pushed me to read 'The Accent of Money' by Niall Ferguson and 'Penguin History of Economics' by Rodger E. Backhouse.

I have enjoyed completing personal investigation necessary for the Welsh Baccalaureate as it allowed me to branch out from my normal subjects and build upon my knowledge of communism that I had gained from my aforementioned history courses. I chose to compare the politics within Wales and The People's Republic of China which enabled me to study how the different political ideologies affect their respective peoples including comparisons of local politics and the quality of life for the average individual.

I undertook a weeklong work placement with Angela Burns, Assembly Member for Pembrokeshire and West Carmarthenshire. The week was divided into 3 days at the constituency office handling cases and issues involving local people and 2 days in Cardiff at the National Assembly dealing with more national matters, attending debates and the launch of the Welsh Conservatives Environmental policy. I found how the two separate levels of work, personal communication with locals and debating national issues, interacted and influenced each other very interesting, how all decisions, political or economic ended up effecting her constituents possibly leading to problems she would then resolve.

Throughout my years in school I have held positions of and responsibility, leading to being elected year President and a senior prefect in the first and second years of 6th form respectively, yet not out of a will to power, but because the dynamics of representation and communal decisions enthrall me. Also as a keen classical percussionist and drummer I have been involved in a number of musical organisations with varying styles and I am currently the head of the percussion section in my school orchestra. I aim to keep this as a part of my life in university outside of the academic aspects and I hope to gain further experience and ability.

From the beginning of Secondary School I have worked a number of jobs part time successfully alongside my studies. Due to the local economy relying heavily upon tourism, all of my positions involved working closely with, and managing, people, which began my interest in the interactions of people and society. On top of the developing strong social skills, my part time employment has led to a good sense of time management, personal responsibility, working efficiently under pressure, and perseverance with any allocated task. Also, my 6 years of wo